

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 282388

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 282388

TOSEC 14

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC DIA WASHDC INFO KUALA LUMPUR
MANILA PHNOM PENH RANGOON SAIGON VIENTIANE CINCPAC HONOLULU
CHIANG MAI UDORN SONGKHLA (BY POUCH) FROM BANGKOK 27 DEC 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 20110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, TH (KITTIKACHON, FIELD MARSHAL THANOM)

SUBJ: THANOM RETURNS TO THAILAND - SITREP AS OF 2100 LOCAL TIME

DEC 27

REF: A. BANGKOK 20104 B. FBIS D271221Z DEC 74

1. ACCORDING TO VOA AND OTHER NEWS SOURCES DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
PRAKOB HUTASING ANNOUNCED TO NEWSMEN AFTER THE CABINET MEETING
DECEMBER 27 THAT SINCE THANOM WAS INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS OF
14 OCTOBER 1973, THE CABINET HAD ORDERED HIS ARREST. HE WILL
BE ARRESTED, INTERROGATED, CONFINED AND TRIED IN COURT. BECAUSE
HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY SERVICE ON 14 OCTOBER 1973, THE
CABINET GAVE THE ORDER TO ARREST THANOM TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.
ACCORDING TO A VOA CORRESPONDENT PRAKOB LATER SAID THAT THANOM IS
UNDER ARREST.

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PAGE 02 STATE 282388

2. AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THE CABINET'S DECISION WAS BROADCAST OVER BANGKOK DOMESTIC SERVICE AT 1900 LOCAL TIME (REF B). THE COMMUNIQUE IS SIGNED "OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER."

3. A VOA CORRESPONDENT SAYS THAT PRIME MINISTER SANYA THAMMASAK HIMSELF ATTENDED CABINET MEETING, ALTHOUGH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAKOB ANNOUNCED THE CABINET'S DECISION TO REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING.

4. THE PEACE KEEPING COMMITTEE MEETING AT MID-DAY RESOLVED TO CALL FOR THE RETURN OF GENERAL KRIT SIWARA TO THAILAND.

5. PRAKOB ALSO SAID THAT THANOM TOLD HIM THAT HIS VISIT DOES NOT INVOLVE POLITICS. HE CAME TO SEE HIS AILING FATHER BECAUSE THE FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD LEAVE HIM WITH A BAD CONSCIENCE.

6. THE BANGKOK POST PLANS TO RUN AN INTERVIEW WITH THANOM'S SON-IN-LAW WHO SAID THAT THANOM IS IN THAILAND, INTENDS TO STAY AND WILL ENTER THE MONKHOOD TO MAKE MERIT FOR HIS FATHER.

7. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS IS REPORTING THAT STUDENTS AT THE THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL HAVE FILED A COMPLAINT WITH LOCAL POLICE CHARGING THANOM WITH MURDER AND EXTRACTING PUBLIC FUNDS. AP FURTHER REPORTS THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE HOLDING THANOM UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

8. POLICE SOURCES SAY THAT THANOM IS DEFINITELY AT AIR CHIEF MARSHAL BUNCHU CHANDRUBEKSA'S RESIDENCE AT DON MUANG AIRPORT. ANOTHER SOURCE REPORTS THAT FIVE OR SIX SOLDIERS ARE GUARDING BUNCHU'S HOUSE.

9. POLICE SOURCES ALSO SAY THAT POSTERS DENOUNCING THE VISIT ARE APPEARING AT UNIVERSITIES AND ON BUSES. SMALL NUMBERS OF STUDENTS ARE GATHERING AT THE UNIVERSITIES. POLICE DO NOT EXPECT ANY MAJOR PROTEST AT LEAST UNTIL TOMORROW BECAUSE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO ORGANIZE A DEMONSTRATION TONIGHT. SPEAKING BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CABINET'S DECISION TO ARREST THANOM, POLICE SOURCES SAID THAT WHAT THE STUDENTS WILL DO DEPENDS ON WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES, AND WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES WILL DEPEND ON THE INTENSITY OF STUDENT PRESSURE. KINTNER UNQUOTE
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PAGE 03 STATE 282388

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